

**From:** Herbie Robinson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I do not think the proposed Microsoft settlement is in the best interest of the American consumers. They have been thumbing their nose at the court through the entire proceeding and will continue to if this settlement goes through. Some examples:

They appear to have been using their monopoly power to inflict the inferior (a widely held opinion) Windows Media Technology on the public: Even though superior, standards based technologies existed long before Microsoft even looked at streaming media on the Internet.

They are rumored to have used monopoly influence over OEM computer manufacturers to force them to remove dual boot software that would allow the computers they shipped to run either BeOS or Windows. This kept the manufacturer of BeOS from even giving it away as a promotion!

This is just what I happen to know about.

Oh, and they touch enough of the computer industry that most professionals are probably afraid to comment publicly on the settlement (out of fear of retribution or blacklisting). I'm certainly nervous about it. [They have no direct way of getting at me, now, but fortunes often change quickly in this industry -- and they are driving just about everybody else out of business.]

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